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CIA INVOLVEMENT IN JFK ASSASSINATION CHARGED IN NEW BOOK

"CIA involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy was known to Federal investigators and withheld from the members of the Warren Commission and the country.

"The basic and erroneous Commission conclusion on conspiracy was written into the Commission Report in the dark of night, while the Report was already on the presses, by a lone lawyer, who evaded the meaning of the evidence he then misrepresented. From his own hitherto secret account, no one -- no member of the Commission, not even a typist -- saw this wrong conclusion, made in the name of members of the Commission, until after the report was published."

These are among the charges made here today by Harold Weisberg, Frederick, Maryland author, in connection with the publication of his fourth book analyzing the work and report of the Warren Commission, "Oswald in New Orleans -- Case for Conspiracy with the CIA." The book's foreword, by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, describes the assassination as an "execution."

At a press conference today, Weisberg offered not just the Government's once-secret files in support of the charges made in "Oswald in New Orleans." These documents show the alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was connected with anti-Castro, rather than pro-Castro, forces.

Weisberg also offered a previously-secret tape recording of remarks by CIA Law Professor Wesley J. Liebeler, the Commission lawyer in charge of its New Orleans investigation.

On May 1, 1967, at a student coffee klatch at UCLA, Liebeler admitted knowledge of a number of related things:

That the mysteriously dead New Orleans [illegible] a former airline pilot David William Ferrie [illegible] the Cuban Revolutionary Council and its fo[illegible] a chief, Sergio Arcacha Smith;

That the Cuban Revolutionary Council [illegible] e 544 Camp Street in New Orleans;

That it was "financed" by the CIA;

That Liebeler had read all the FBI reports [illegible] authority, nevertheless had not called Fe[illegible] witness.

Weisberg provided a series of once-secret FBI reports of November 25, 1963, three days after the assassination, showing that officials immediately related the CIA and Arcacha with Oswald

and the assassination. These reports also refer to an unidentified Guy Banister, whose address is given as 531 Lafayette Street in New Orleans.

By photographs Weisberg showed what the FBI reports do not, that 531 Lafayette Street and 544 Camp Street are the same address, a corner building.

The Cuban Revolutionary Council, he said, was created by the CIA at the Skyways Motel in Miami, Florida, on March 18, 1961. He then identified Banister as a former FBI agent and a violent racist who was "in on all the important CIA Latin American operations."

Weisberg then produced photocopies of pages 38 and 39 of Commission Exhibit 1320, showing that Oswald used this address, 544 Camp St., on his "pro-Castro" literature. He quoted the Report -- and Liebeler -- as pretending that the Commission could give no meaning to Oswald's use of a right wing, CIA address.

"It shows Oswald's CIA -- not pro-Castro -- connections," Weisberg concluded.

Weisberg also quoted from "Oswald in New Orleans" to show that FBI reports, which both Liebeler and the Commission had in their possession, contained Ferrie's threat to kill the President.

"They palm it off as a 'colloquial expression,'" Weisberg declared.

He further said that Arcacha is being protected by Texas Governor John Connally, himself wounded in the assassination. Connally has refused to grant extradition of Arcacha to New Orleans.

Weisberg also released Liebeler's explanation of how he handled the section of the Report dealing with the threat to kill the President. Three men visited a Mrs. Sylvia Odio and told her the President should be killed. One is a Californian recently located in Port Isabella. Another was identified as "Leon Oswald", in a close approximation of the bearded man Garrison said participated in the conspiracy plotted in Ferrie's home.

Investigation of this event, Weisberg says, was deliberately delayed until too late for the members of the Commission to consider it. The very night the presses were to roll, the FBI told the Commission -- nine and a half months after first learning of this threat to kill President Kennedy over the Bay of Pigs "fiasco" -- that it had located the men. Here, according to the Liebeler tape, he alone rewrote part of the Report and concluded only that "Leon Oswald" could not have been "Lee Oswald."

"Whether this was or was not the real Lee Harvey Oswald," Weisberg insists, "this should have been the beginning, not the end, of an investigation."

The tape of the Liebeler speech has him saying, "We drafted the section of the Report dealing with Mrs. Odio . . . and it was the night of the 20th or 21st of September when we were going over the page proofs of the Report for the last time . . . (a) courier from the FBI came in with a letter from Mr. Hoover . . . the FBI had found the men. There I am. Marvelous! . . . So I went down to (Commission Chief Counsel) Rankin (and said) . . . 'What are we going to do, Mr. Rankin?' Mr. Rankin . . . said, 'That's not the right question, Mr. Liebeler. The question is, what are <u>you</u> going to do?' . . . had to be done by 12 o'clock that night . . . so, I sat down and rewrote the whole section and used the same number of footnotes . . . and it went over (to the Government Printing Office) in my handwriting, which is not very clear."

Weisberg also said, "Here is proof of what I have tried to make understood from the beginning of my own investigation, that the members of the Commission are among the victims of the tragedies in the wake of the assassination. Their names were affixed to conclusions they did not write or see, conclusions I believe that, had they been fully informed, they would not have agreed to."

Weisberg's earlier works are entitled "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report," "Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Coverup," and "Photographic Whitewash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures."